pubs.acs.org/joc

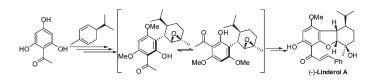
Improved Enantioselective Synthesis of (-)-Linderol A: Hindered Rotation about Aryl-Csp³ Bond

Pierre-Olivier Delaye,[†] Pedro Lameiras,[‡] Nelly Kervarec,[§] Catherine Mirand,[†] and Hatice Berber^{*,†}

[†]Institut de Chimie Moléculaire de Reims, CNRS UMR 6229, Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne, Faculté de Pharmacie, 51 rue Cognacq-Jay, F-51096 Reims Cedex, France, [‡]Institut de Chimie Moléculaire de Reims, CNRS UMR 6229, Moulin de la Housse, Bâtiment 18, BP 1039, F-51687 Reims Cedex 2, France, and [§]Service Commun de RMN-RPE, 6 avenue Victor-Le-Gorgeu, CS 93837, F-29238 Cedex 3, France

hatice.berber@univ-reims.fr

Received December 4, 2009



An improved enantioselective total synthesis of (-)-linderol A has been achieved via a five-step reaction with a 21% overall yield, starting from phloroacetophenone and (-)- α -phellandrene, two commercially available reagents. In the diastereoselective epoxidation step, the analysis of the two endocyclic epoxide intermediates reveals a hindered sp²-sp³ rotation, which results in rotational diastereoisomers.

Introduction

(-)-Linderol A [(-)-1, Figure 1], a monoterpene-substituted chalcone with four asymmetric carbons at the 6 (R), 5a (R), 9a (S), and 9 (R) positions, was isolated in 1995 from the fresh bark of *Lindera umbellata* (Lauraceae) by Sashida and co-workers.¹ They also reported the potent inhibitory activity of this natural product on the melanin biosynthesis of B-16 melanoma cells without causing any cytotoxicity on the cultured cells.¹

Ohta and co-workers were first interested in the total synthesis of 1 because of structural and biological aspects. The first-² and second-generation³ syntheses of (\pm) -1 have been previously reported by this group (Scheme 1). In the first-generation synthesis, the critical step of their strategy was a tandem reaction of the 3-ethoxycarbonylcoumarin derivative 2 with dimethylsulfoxonium methylide to give the 2-ethoxycarbonylcyclopenta[b]benzofuran-3-ol derivative 3. The key step of the second-generation synthesis involved a

DOI: 10.1021/jo902567y © 2010 American Chemical Society Published on Web 03/24/2010

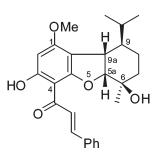


FIGURE 1. Structure of (-)-linderol A [(-)-1].

stereoconvergent approach to tetrahydrodibenzofuran derivative **5** from benzo[*b*]cyclobuta[*d*]pyran derivative **4** (Scheme 1).

The first synthesis of (-)-1 and (+)-1 was achieved via optical resolution of an acetylated intermediate of the total synthesis of (\pm) -1 (Scheme 1).⁴ Ohta and co-workers have moreover determined the absolute configuration of (-)-1, which had not been previously reported by Sashida and co-workers¹ (Figure 1).

Recently, this group has achieved an asymmetric total synthesis of (-)-1 in 13 steps with 23% overall yield from 5,7-dimethoxy-coumarin-3-carboxylic acid using the second-generation strategy.⁵ The two key reactions consist in a diastereoselective [2 + 2]

⁽¹⁾ Mimaki, Y.; Kameyama, A.; Sashida, Y.; Miyata, Y.; Fujii, A. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **1995**, *43*, 893–895.

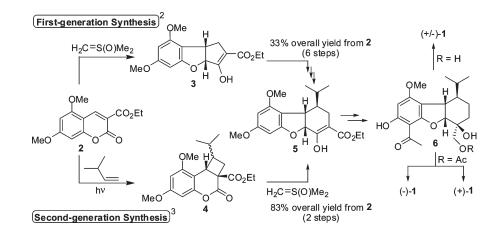
^{(2) (}a) Yamashita, M.; Ohta, N.; Kawasaki, I.; Ohta, S. *Org. Lett.* **2001**, *3*, 1359–1362. (b) Yamashita, M.; Ohta, N.; Shimizu, T.; Matsumoto, K.; Matuura, Y.; Kawasaki, I.; Tanaka, T.; Maezaki, N.; Ohta, S. *J. Org. Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 1216–1224.

^{(3) (}a) Yamashita, M.; Inaba, T.; Shimizu, T.; Kawasaki, I.; Ohta, S. Synlett **2004**, 1897–1900. (b) Yamashita, M.; Inaba, T.; Nagahama, M.; Shimizu, T.; Kosaka, S.; Kawasaki, I.; Ohta, S. Org. Biomol. Chem. **2005**, *3*, 2296–2304. (c) Yamashita, M.; Shimizu, T.; Inaba, T.; Takada, A.; Takao, I.; Kawasaki, I.; Ohta, S. Heterocycles **2005**, *65*, 1099–109.

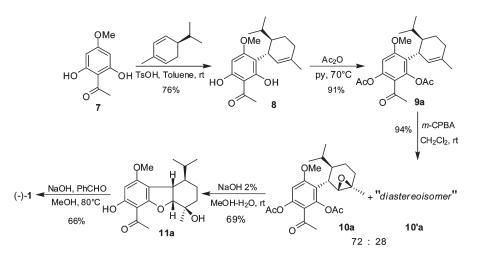
⁽⁴⁾ Yamashita, M.; Shimizu, T.; Kawasaki, I.; Ohta, S. Tetrahedron: Asymmetry 2004, 15, 2315–2317.

⁽⁵⁾ Yamashita, M.; Yadav, N. D.; Sawaki, T.; Takao, I.; Kawasaki, I.; Sugimoto, Y.; Miyatake, A.; Murai, K.; Takahara, A.; Kurume, A.; Ohta, S. J. Org. Chem. **2007**, 72, 5697–5703.

SCHEME 1



SCHEME 2



photocycloaddition of a coumarin-3-carboxylate bearing a chiral auxiliary with 3-methyl-1-butene and a subsequent stereoconvergent transformation of the photoadducts with the use of dimethylsulfoxonium methylide to afford a tetrahydrodibenzofuran derivative.

In parallel, we have reported an efficient short enantioselective total synthesis of (-)-1 via a five-step reaction with a 30% overall yield, starting from 2,6-dihydroxy-4-methoxyacetophenone 7 and (-)- α -phellandrene (Scheme 2).⁶

Two key reactions have been used, terpenylation⁷ and a stereospecific intramolecular epoxide opening with a phenolate anion.⁸ However, our synthesis presents two shortcomings that are the preparation of the starting reagent 2,6dihydroxy-4-methoxyacetophenone 7 obtained with poor yields (20%) from the commercially available phloroacetophenone⁹ and the low diastereoselectivity of the epoxidation. Indeed, we have reported the formation of a mixture of two supposed diastereomeric epoxides **10a** and **10'a** favoring the desired **10a** in a ratio of 72:28 (evaluated by ¹H NMR spectrum). This reaction requires extensive study in order to increase the diastereoselectivity seeing that the epoxide **10a** is the key reagent in the next stereospecific ring closure step; furthermore the structure of the nonproductive epoxide **10'a** was not clearly identified because it was never isolated before.

Herein, we present an improved synthesis of (-)-linderol A after a detailed study of the asymmetric epoxidation.

Results and Discussion

We started our study by reproducing epoxidation of the diacetate compound 9a with *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid. Therefore, the mixture of the two epoxides 10a and 10'a was obtained in good yield (Scheme 3). The separation of these two supposed diastereoisomers was attempted by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and then by column chromatography on silica gel with different solvents. Unfortunately, all our attempts failed (only one spot appeared in TLC plates).

We then decided to carry out epoxidation of the alkene by varying the protecting groups in order to check on the possibility to obtain the mixture of the two epoxides (and the ratio variation). The dibenzoate product **9b** was prepared in good yield (82%) from **8** by the same procedure as for acetylation. Surprisingly, epoxidation of **9b** gave a mixture of the two isomers **10b** and **10'b** with a lower selectivity (60:40).

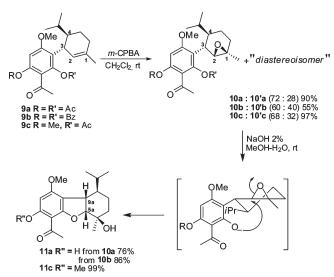
⁽⁶⁾ Berber, H.; Delaye, P.-O.; Mirand, C. Synlett 2008, 94-96.

⁽⁷⁾ Crombie, L.; Crombie, W. M. L.; Firth, D. F. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 1988, 1251–1253.

⁽⁸⁾ Uliss, D. B.; Razdan, R. K.; Dalzell, H. C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1974**, 96, 7372–7374.

⁽⁹⁾ Huang, C.; Da, S.; Li, Y.; Li, Y. J. Nat. Prod. 1997, 60, 277-278.

SCHEME 3



With the monoacetate derivative 9c, epoxidation led to the mixture of the two epoxides 10c and 10'c in a ratio of 68:32.

With the mixtures of these inseparable isomers (10 and 10') in hand, we attempted the next ring-closure step via epoxide opening in the presence of 2% sodium hydroxide in methanol-water (1:1). The hexahydrodibenzofuran derivatives 11a-c were obtained with good yields without any byproduct (Scheme 3). The transformation of 10 and 10' to 11 involves an intramolecular trans diaxial cleavage of the epoxide (via a S_N2i mechanism) at its less hindered site, which fixes the stereochemistry of the furan ring at C5a and C9a as $cis.^8$ If the major diastereoisomers (10a, 10b, and 10c) of the mixtures are considered as the starting material for ring-opening, the exact yield for 11a and 11c is over 100% (108%, 143%, and 148%, respectively), which is not a realistic outcome. Thus, we concluded that the mixture of the two epoxides cannot be these diastereoisomers.

Furthermore, the ¹H NMR spectra of the mixtures for 10 and 10' were instructive: it showed similar signals for the C2 proton which appeared as a singlet and for the C3 proton as a doublet with a large coupling constant $(J \approx 11 \text{ Hz})$ for the two isomers (Table 1). The stereochemistry of this type of endocyclic epoxides has already been studied;¹⁰ it was shown that these two hydrogen atoms (on C2 and C3) are therefore in a *trans* relationship, and it follows that the epoxide ring and the aryl group are also *trans* oriented for the two isomers in each case. Thus, the proposed structure for isomers 10'a-c with the epoxide ring and the aryl moiety in the same face seemed incorrect.

From these results, we hypothesized that atropisomerism was possible around the Car-C3 bond (a sp^2-sp^3 bond) for these compounds (10,10'a-c) (Figure 2). Atropisomerism is usually associated with biaryl systems, where a single

TABLE 1. $^{1}\mathrm{H}$ NMR Data of the Mixtures of Endocyclic Epoxides 10 and 10'

	С2-Н	С3-Н
10a and 10'a	2.80 (s)	3.06 (d, J = 10.7 Hz)
	2.91 (s)	3.60 (d, J = 10.7 Hz)
10b and 10'b	2.91 (s)	3.13 (d, J = 10.6 Hz)
	2.91 (s)	3.67 (d, J = 11.6 Hz)
10c and 10'c	2.78 (s)	3.01 (d, J = 10.6 Hz)
	2.90 (s)	3.53 (d, J = 10.9 Hz)

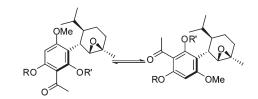


FIGURE 2. Possible structure of rotameric epoxides 10 and 10'.

bond rotation about the sp^2-sp^2 C–C bond is sufficiently restricted so as to lead to separable conformers.¹¹ Rotation about the single bond between sp^2 - and sp^3 -hybridized carbon atoms can also be hindered by bulky substituents.¹¹ In general, Ar–Csp³ bonds have very low rotation barriers.¹¹ Nevertheless, there are some examples of compounds with much higher rotation barriers, such as 9-arylfluorenes, in which case two rotamers may be isolated.¹² Such compounds usually have bulky *ortho*-substituents on the aromatic ring,^{13a} or bulky substituents on the benzylic carbon,^{13b} or both. A recent study of the bond rotation barriers of 2-aryl perhydropyrrolo[3,4-*c*]pyrrole-1,3-diones where the rigidity of the rings and their substituents retard the C–Ar rotation was also reported.^{13c}

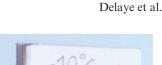
To demonstrate the interconversions between 10 and 10', compounds 10c and 10'c (ratio 68:32) were analyzed by variable-temperature ¹H NMR (Figure 3; see the Supporting Information for all spectra). As the temperature increased, the rotation of the pendant aryl ring exchanged the diastereomeric aromatic protons, and the signals broadened and began to coalesce at 370 K with a three-degree uncertainty. We applied the Gutowsky-Holm equation^{11a,b} to these signals to obtain a crude estimate of the rate of the Car-C3 bond rotation, and we found $k_c = 28.9 \text{ s}^{-1}$. In this case of exchange of the aromatic uncoupled proton between 10c (major) and 10'c (minor), two unequally populated sites, we had to estimate two rate constants (see the Supporting Information for more details), which are $k_{10\to10'} = 19.6 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $k_{10' \rightarrow 10} = 41.7 \text{ s}^{-1}$. From these data and the Eyring equation,^{11a,b} we calculated $\Delta G^{\dagger}_{10 \rightarrow 10'} = 82.1 \pm 1 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ and $\Delta G^{\dagger}_{10' \rightarrow 10} = 79.8 \pm 1 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$. At room temperature (298 K), the rate constants were estimated to be 0.031 and 0.079 s^{-1} , and therefore, half-lives of 32.3 and 12.7 s were deduced. Thus, compounds 10c and 10'c are too short-lived to be atropisomers (lower than 1000 s).¹¹ Nevertheless, these are two relatively long-lived rotamers which should be separable

⁽¹⁰⁾ Mechoulam, R.; Shvo, Y. Tetrahedron 1963, 19, 2073-2078.

^{(11) (}a) Eliel, E. L.; Wilen, S. H.; Mander, L. N. Stereochemistry Of Organic Compounds; Wiley-Interscience: New York, 1994. (b) Kessler, H. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 1970, 9, 219–235. (c) Wolf, C. Dynamic Stereochemistry of Chiral Compounds; Royal Society of Chemistry: Cambridge, 2008.

⁽¹²⁾ Ford, W. T.; Thompson, T. B.; Snoble, K. A. J.; Timko, J. M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1975, 97, 95–101.

^{(13) (}a) Martin, H. J.; Drescher, M.; Kählig, H.; Schneider, S.; Mulzer, J. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* 2001, 40, 3186–3188. (b) Murrison, S.; Glowacki, D.; Einzinger, C.; Titchmarsh, J.; Bartlett, S.; McKeever-Abbas, B.; Warriner, S.; Nelson, A. *Chem.—Eur. J.* 2009, *15*, 2185–2189. (c) Damodaran, K.; Nielsen, S. D.; Geib, S. J.; Zhang, W.; Lu, Y.; Curran, D. P. J. Org. Chem. 2009, *74*, 5481–5485.



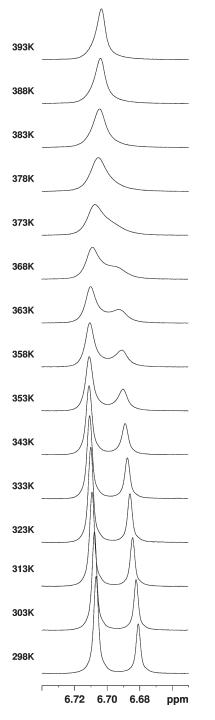


FIGURE 3. Expansion of the aromatic region of the VT-NMR spectra of **10,10'c** in DMSO- d_6 at 500 MHz ($\Delta \nu = 13$ Hz).

at low temperature by HPLC. In fact, a baseline separation of **10c** and **10'c** was attempted by maintaining the temperature of the HPLC column at 4 °C (eluent: 75/25, hexane/ EtOAc). At this temperature separation failed, and only one broad peak was obtained on the chromatogram. This result suggested that the equilibration of the rotamers **10c** and **10'c** was too fast at 4 °C (half-lives around 6.7 and 2.4 min) to distinguish them. Consequently, according to our observations and results, the equilibrium should be slow at a lower temperature.

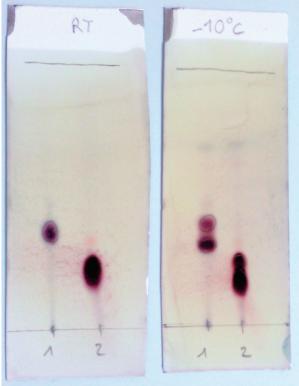


FIGURE 4. TLC plates at rt (left) and -10 °C (right) (eluent: 7:3 hexane/EtOAc) for 10,10'b (1) and 10,10'c (2).

In order to verify this hypothesis, we achieved separation of **10b,c** and **10'b**,c by TLC (7:3, hexane/EtOAc) at -10 °C (half-lives of 44.5 and 15.4 min for **10c** and **10'c**, respectively) by placing the plate in the frozen compartment of a refrigerator (Figure 4). Two spots appeared in each case and were identified as **10** and **10'** by UV (at 254 nm) and after staining with vanillin. As a reference, TLC was performed at room temperature with the same eluent, and only one spot was obtained in each case.

To illustrate more explicitly the interconversion, 2D TLCs were then run on rotamers 10,10'c at three different temperatures (Figure 5). At very low temperature (-20 °C), four spots appeared, in which the two most intense spots (right) correspond to the major rotamer 10c and the two less intense spots (left) to the minor rotamer 10'c.

These compounds possess four asymmetric centers (C1, C2, C3 and C4), and a fifth element of chirality (namely an axis of chirality along the Car-C3 bond) must be present in order to account for the apparent diastereoisomers seen by NMR at room temperature and by TLC at very low temperature. This point suggests that **10** and **10'** are mixtures of rotational diastereoisomers (Figure 2).

In order to confirm this conclusion we prepared, according to the same synthetic route as for (-)-1, the endocyclic epoxide 14 with a symmetrical aromatic moiety from phloroglucinol in three steps (Scheme 4). As expected, epoxide 14 was isolated as a single isomer. Furthermore, in compound 14, the two *o*-methoxy groups and the two *meta* protons appeared at different chemical shifts in the ¹H NMR spectrum (in DMSO- d_6 at 500 MHz). The corresponding signals also showed different chemical shifts in the ¹³C NMR

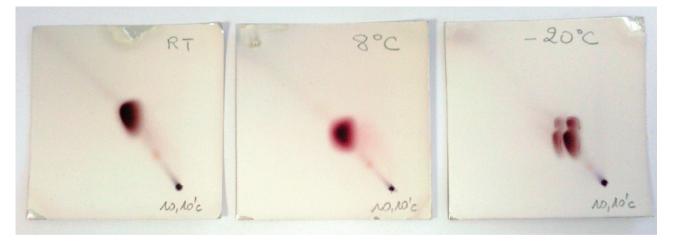
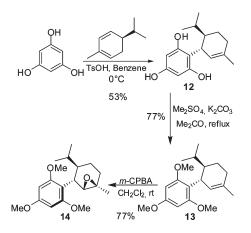


FIGURE 5. 2D TLC plates at rt (left), 8 °C and -20 °C (right) (eluent: 7:3 hexane/EtOAc) for 10,10'c.

SCHEME 4



spectrum (see the Supporting Information). This meant that the rotation of the aryl ring was slow enough on the NMR time scale to make the two o-methoxy groups and the two meta protons diastereotopic. This rotamer (14) was also studied by VT-NMR (Figure 6; see the Supporting Information for all spectra). When rotamer 14 was heated in DMSO d_6 at 500 MHz, the two doublets with a small *meta* coupling (2.1 Hz) for the diastereotopic aromatic protons broadened and coalesced at about 368 K (with an uncertainty of 5°) and emerged at higher temperature as one sharp singlet. The rate constant k_c for these *meta* coupling protons was about 30 s⁻¹ calculated by application of an alternative equation to the Gutowsky–Holm equation^{11a,b} (see the Supporting Information for more details) and $\Delta G^{\ddagger} = 80.4 \pm 1.3 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$. For the o-methoxy protons, the coalescence was observed at 358 K (\pm 5°) and we found $k_c = 16.2 \text{ s}^{-1}$. The value found for ΔG^{\dagger} (79.9 ± 1.3 kJ·mol⁻¹) is in good agreement with those obtained from the *meta* protons.

Finally, we also observed this interesting phenomenon with alkenes 9a-c (Scheme 3) where rotation at the Car-C3 bond is restricted but with lower rotation barriers than for epoxides 10 and 10'. Indeed, in ¹H NMR spectra, a very broad signal for the benzylic proton (3-H) and a slightly less-broad signal for the neighboring alkene proton (2-H) were found in compounds 9a-c. In addition, the corresponding signals (C2 and C3) appeared with difficulty in the ¹³C NMR

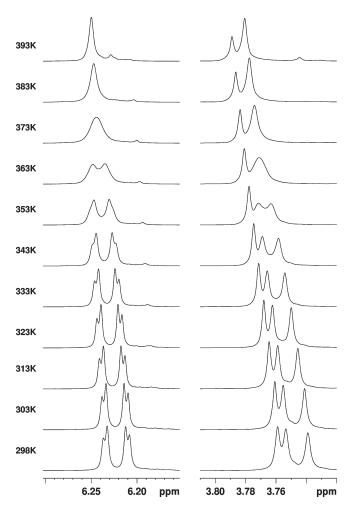
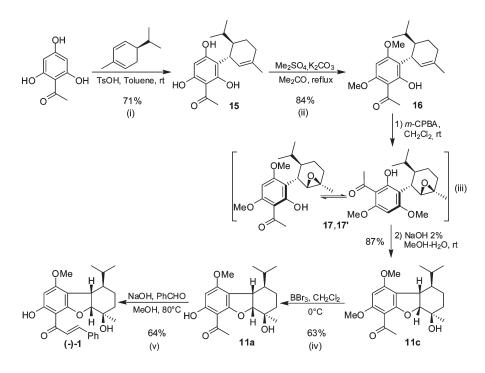


FIGURE 6. Expansion of the aromatic and the methoxy regions of the VT-NMR spectra of 14 in DMSO- d_6 at 500 MHz ($\Delta \nu = 12.5$ and 7.3 Hz, respectively).

spectra of 9a-c (see the Supporting Information for NMR spectra). These dynamic effects were assigned to a restricted sp²-sp³ rotation with a coalescence temperature between 15 and 25 °C.^{11b,13a,13c} Variable-temperature (VT) NMR studies were already reported for this type of compounds.^{13a,c}



As a conclusion, the high rotation barriers (around $80 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$) for rotamers **10**, **10'c**, and **14** could therefore be explained by the rigidity of the endocyclic epoxide and the presence of the *ortho*-substituents on the aromatic ring.

Epoxidation is accordingly completely diastereoselective in term of asymmetric centers. In view of this, we wish to revise the reported⁶ "mixture of the two diastereomeric epoxides" which turned out to be a mixture of two rotational diastereoisomers.

The last point that required improvement is the preparation of the starting reagent 2,6-dihydroxy-4-methoxyacetophenone 7 which was obtained with a poor yield ($\sim 20\%$) by *para*-methylation of the commercially available phloroacetophenone, due to the low regioselectivity of the reaction.⁹ Considering this fact the overall yield of our described synthesis was only 6% over six steps. After several attempts to optimize the reaction yield, we decided to recast the synthesis by slightly modifying our approach (Scheme 5).

In the first key step, the terpenylation was directly conducted with phloroacetophenone, an easily available commercial reagent (instead of 7). The obtained monoterpenylated derivative 15 was regioselectively dimethylated (step ii). Then, the asymmetric epoxidation of the dimethyl ether 16 was followed by stereospecific intramolecular epoxide ring-opening with the phenolate anion to give the hexahydrodibenzofuran ring 11c (step iii). Finally, the acetyl-adjacent methyl ether was regioselectively cleaved, the subsequent introduction of the chalcone chain led to the target natural product (-)-1 (steps iv and v). We planned an improved synthesis of (-)-1 according to this route (Scheme 5).

Terpenylation of the phloroacetophenone using (-)- α -phellandrene in the presence of a catalytic amount of TsOH (0.2 equiv) gave the monoterpenylated compound **15** in 71% yield. Surprisingly, phloroacetophenone was more reactive than its corresponding *para*-methylated derivative **7** for

which terpenylation required a stoichiometric quantity of TsOH. The monoterpenylated derivative **15** was regioselectively converted into its dimethyl ether **16** in good yield in the presence of dimethyl sulfate and K_2CO_3 . Then the dimethyl ether **16** was allowed to react with *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid generating a mixture of two rotameric epoxides (**17** and **17**') which were directly opened (without purification by column chromatography) by phenolate anion under basic conditions leading to the desired hexahydrodibenzofuran derivative **11c** in very good yield (87% for two steps). The selective demethylation of the methoxy group by treatment with BBr₃ afforded the phenol **11a** in 63% yield. Finally the chalcone chain was introduced by aldol condensation in the presence of benzaldehyde under alkaline conditions giving (–)-linderol A with good yield (64%).

Conclusion

We have accomplished a concise and improved enantioselective total synthesis of (-)-linderol A after only five steps and from cheap commercial reagents in 21% overall yield. We have also shown that in the epoxidation step, the reaction is diastereoselective and allows to obtain a mixture of two rotameric diastereoisomers.

Experimental Section

2-Acetyl-4-((1*R***,6***R***)-6-isopropyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-enyl)-5methoxy-1,3-phenylene Diacetate (9a). Ac₂O (3 mL) was added to a solution of 8** (180 mg, 0.57 mmol) in pyridine (2 mL) at rt under a N₂ atmosphere, and the whole was stirred at 70 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure, and then the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (8:2 petroleum ether/EtOAc) to give **9a** (210 mg, 91%) as a colorless oil: $[\alpha]^{23}_{D}$ +14 (*c* 0.44, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.56 (s, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 3.80 (m, 4H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.78 (dt, *J* = 12.9 Hz, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.36 (m, 2H), 0.86 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.77 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.4 (C), 169.2 (C), 168.5 (C), 160.1 (C), 147.4 (C), 147.1 (C), 132.9 (C), 124.9 (CH), 124.3 (C), 121.1 (C), 102.6 (CH), 55.9 (CH₃), 42.5 (CH), 36.0 (CH), 30.8 (CH₃), 30.6 (CH₂), 28.0 (CH), 23.4 (CH₃), 22.3 (CH₂), 21.5 (CH₃), 21.1 (CH₃), 20.8 (CH₃), 15.9 (CH₃); MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 402 (M⁺, 0.1), 359 (52), 317 (99), 290 (22), 248 (100), 233 (30); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₃H₃₀O₆ 402.2042, found 402.2041.

2-Acetyl-4-((1R,6R)-6-isopropyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-enyl)-5methoxy-1,3-phenylene Dibenzoate (9b). BzCl (0.12 mL, 1 mmol) was added to a solution of 8 (123 mg, 0.4 mmol) in pyridine (2 mL) at rt under a N₂ atmosphere, and the whole was stirred at 70 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure, and then the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (98:2 CH₂Cl₂/ EtOAc) to give 9b (170 mg, 82%) as a colorless oil: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25-8.06 (m, 4H), 7.87-7.42 (m, 6H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 3.96 (br s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.00-1.00 (m, 9H), 0.89 $(d, J = 6.9 \text{ Hz}, 3\text{H}), 0.80 (d, J = 6.7 \text{ Hz}, 3\text{H}); {}^{13}\text{C} \text{ NMR} (75 \text{ MHz}, 3\text{H}); {}^{13}\text{C} \text{ NM} (75 \text{ MHz}, 3\text{H}); {}^{13}\text{C} \text{ N$ CDCl₃) δ 198.3 (C), 165.0 (C), 164.5 (C), 160.2 (C), 147.7 (C), 147.3 (C), 134.5 (CH), 134.0 (CH), 133.5 (CH), 133.4 (C), 130.5 (CH), 130.3 (CH), 130.26 (CH), 129.0 (2C), 128.9 (CH), 128.8 (CH), 128.3 (CH), 125.7 (C), 124.8 (C), 124.5 (CH), 102.9 (CH), 56.0 (CH₃), 43.1 (CH), 36.2 (CH), 31.1 (CH₃), 30.3 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH), 23.1 (CH₃), 22.3 (CH₂), 21.7 (CH₃), 16.0 (CH₃); MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 526 (M⁺, 0.3), 422 (99), 421 (100), 379 (98), 351 (90), 122 (64), 106 (66), 105 (100); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₃₃H₃₄O₆ 526.2355, found 526.2337.

2-Acetyl-6-((1R,6R)-6-isopropyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-enyl)-3,5dimethoxyphenyl Acetate (9c). Ac₂O (0.75 mL) was added to a solution of 16 (43 mg, 0.13 mmol) in pyridine (0.5 mL) at rt under a N₂ atmosphere, and the whole was stirred at 90 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced pressure, and then the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (9:1 petroleum ether/EtOAc) to give 9c (46 mg, 94%) as a colorless oil: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 6.66 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.72 (br s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 2.12-1.63 (m, 7H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.32 (m, 1H), 1.23 (dq, J =12.4 Hz, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H, 0.79 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.75 (d, J =6.7 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 199.3 (C), 169.0 (C), 160.6 (C), 157.1 (C), 147.1 (C), 132.1 (C), 125.5 (CH), 117.6 (C), 117.0 (C), 94.0 (CH), 56.4 (CH₃), 56.3 (CH₃), 42.4 (CH), 35.4 (CH), 31.7 (CH₃), 30.3 (CH₂), 27.9 (CH), 23.5 (CH₃), 22.4 (CH₂), 21.6 (CH₃), 20.8 (CH₃), 16.2 (CH₃); MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 374 (M⁺, 2), 331 (76), 262 (100); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₂H₃₀O₅ 374.2093, found 374.2051.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Rotameric Epoxides 10,10'a-c.m-CPBA (1.2 to 1.5 equiv) was added to a solution of 9a-c in CH₂Cl₂ at rt under a N₂ atmosphere, and the whole was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was treated with saturated K₂CO₃ and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was washed, dried, and evaporated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give rotameric epoxides 10,10'a-c.

2-Acetyl-4-((1*S***,2***S***,3***R***,6***R***)-3-isopropyl-6-methyl-7-oxabicyclo-[4.1.0]heptan-2-yl)-5-methoxy-1,3-phenylene Diacetate (10,10'a): 90%, dr 72/28; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 6.62 (s, 0.72H), 6.58 (s, 0.28H), 3.85 (s, 2.16H), 3.84 (s, 0.84H), 3.60 (d,** *J* **= 10.7 Hz, 0.28H), 3.06 (d,** *J* **= 10.7 Hz, 0.72H), 2.91 (s, 0.28H), 2.80 (s, 0.72H), 2.43 (s, 2.16H), 2.42 (s, 0.84H), 2.33 (s, 0.84H), 2.31 (s, 2.16H), 2.28 (s, 2.16H), 2.42 (s, 0.84H), 2.19–1.99 (m, 1H), 1.82–1.46 (m, 3H), 1.43–1.18 (m, 4H), 0.98–0.68 (m, 7H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) \delta 198.5 (C), 198.2 (C), 169.1 (C), 168.7 (C), 168.5 (C), 168.3 (C), 159.8 (C), 159.5 (C), 147.8 (C), 147.6 (C), 147.2 (C), 146.8 (C), 123.0 (C), 122.9 (C), 120.4 (C), 120.2 (C), 103.7 (CH), 102.5 (CH), 64.2 (CH), 64.1 (CH), 58.6 (C), 58.3 (C), 55.9 (CH₃), 55.8 (CH₃), 43.0 (CH), 41.8 (CH), 36.2 (CH), 35.0 (CH), 30.9 (CH₃), 30.8 (CH₃), 30.2 (CH₂), 29.6 (CH₂), 27.9** (CH), 23.0 (CH₃), 22.8 (CH₃), 21.6 (CH₃), 21.4 (CH₃), 21.3 (CH₃), 21.1 (CH₃), 21.08 (CH₃), 20.8 (CH₃), 17.9 (CH₂), 17.4 (CH₂), 15.8 (CH₃), 15.7 (CH₃); MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 418 (M⁺, 0.06), 204 (49), 149 (66), 113 (100); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₃H₃₀O₇ 418.1992, found 418.1964.

2-Acetyl-4-((1S,2S,3R,6R)-3-isopropyl-6-methyl-7-oxabicyclo-[4.1.0]heptan-2-yl)-5-methoxy-1,3-phenylene Dibenzoate (10,10'b): 55%, dr 60/40; TLC (7:3 hexane/EtOAc) at rt R_f 0.36, at -10 °C $R_f 0.40$ and 0.31; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (m, 4H), 7.67 (m, 2H), 7.52 (m, 4H), 6.79 (s, 0.6H), 6.73 (s, 0.4H), 3.90 (s, 1.8H), 3.88 (s, 1.2H), 3.67 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 0.4H), 3.13 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 0.6H), 2.91 (s, 1H), 2.41 (s, 1.8H), 2.39 (s, 1.2H), 2.04-0.69 (m, 13.2H), 0.60 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1.8H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.2 (C), 198.1 (C), 165.2 (C), 164.7 (C), 164.5 (C), 164.4 (C), 160.0 (C), 159.6 (C), 148.1 (C), 147.9 (C), 147.6 (C), 147.2 (C), 134.1 (2CH), 134.0 (2CH), 130.4 (4CH), 130.3 (4CH), 129.1 (2C), 128.84 (2CH), 128.8 (2CH), 128.7 (2CH), 128.66 (2CH), 128.5 (2C), 123.6 (C), 123.5 (C), 121.3 (C), 121.1 (C), 104.1 (CH), 102.9 (CH), 64.25 (CH), 64.22 (CH), 58.7 (C), 58.6 (C), 56.1 (CH₃), 56.0 (CH₃), 43.0 (CH), 41.9 (CH), 36.4 (CH), 35.5 (CH), 31.2 (CH₃), 31.1 (CH₃), 30.3 (CH₂), 29.7 (CH₂), 28.1 (CH), 22.9 (CH₃), 22.5 (CH₃), 21.6 (CH₃), 21.5 (CH₃), 18.0 (CH₂), 17.4 (CH₂), 16.2 (CH₃), 15.8 (CH₃); MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 542 (M⁺, 1), 350 (66), 315 (36), 105 (100); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₃₃H₃₄O₇ 542.2305, found 542.2297.

2-Acetyl-6-((1S,2S,3R,6R)-3-isopropyl-6-methyl-7-oxabicyclo-[4.1.0]heptan-2-yl)-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl Acetate (10,10'c): 97%, dr 68/32; TLC (7:3 hexane/EtOAc) at rt R_f 0.22, at -10 °C R_f 0.25 and 0.16; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.39 (s, 0.67H), 6.37 (s, 0.33H), 3.90 (s, 0.99H), 3.89 (s, 2.01H), 3.88 (s, 2.01H), 3.87 (s, 0.99H), 3.53 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 0.33H), 3.01 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 0.67H), 2.90 (s, 0.33H), 2.78 (s, 0.67H), 2.48 (s, 2.01H), 2.47 (s, 0.99H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.17-1.95 (m, 1H), 1.80-1.10 (m, 7H), $1.01-0.80 \text{ (m, 1H)}, 0.74 \text{ (d, } J = 6.8 \text{ Hz, 6H)}; {}^{13}\text{C} \text{ NMR} (75 \text{ MHz}, 1.01-0.80 \text{ (m, 1H)}), 0.74 \text{ (d, } J = 6.8 \text{ Hz, 6H}); {}^{13}\text{C} \text{ NMR} (75 \text{ MHz}, 1.01-0.80 \text{ (m, 1H)}), 0.74 \text{ (d, } J = 6.8 \text{ Hz}, 6 \text{ Hz}); {}^{13}\text{C} \text{ NMR} (75 \text{ MHz}, 1.01-0.80 \text{ (m, 1H)}), 0.74 \text{ (d, } J = 6.8 \text{ Hz}, 6 \text{ Hz}); {}^{13}\text{C} \text{ NMR} (75 \text{ MHz}, 1.01-0.80 \text{ (m, 1H)}), 0.74 \text{ (m, 1H)})$ CDCl₃) & 200.6 (C), 200.3 (C), 169.4 (C), 169.1 (C), 160.6 (C), 160.2 (C), 157.9 (C), 157.6 (C), 147.8 (C), 147.2 (C), 117.5 (C), 117.3 (C), 116.3 (C), 116.1 (C), 93.2 (CH), 92.1 (CH), 64.7 (CH), 64.6 (CH), 58.6 (C), 58.4 (C), 55.7 (CH₃), 55.6 (CH₃), 42.9 (CH), 42.1 (CH), 35.7 (CH), 34.7 (CH), 31.7 (CH₃), 31.6 (CH₃), 30.8 (CH₂), 30.3 (CH₂), 27.8 (CH), 27.78 (CH), 23.0 (CH₃), 22.8 (CH₃), 21.5 (CH₃), 21.3 (CH₃), 20.9 (CH₃), 20.8 (CH₃), 17.9 (CH₂), 17.4 (CH₂), 15.8 (CH₃), 15.7 (CH₃); MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 390 (M⁺, 12), 209 (47), 156 (89), 139 (100), 111 (44); HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₂₂H₃₀O₆ 390.2042, found 390.1986.

General Procedure for the Synthesis of 11a and 11c. The mixture of rotameric epoxides 10,10'a-c was treated at rt with 2% NaOH solution in MeOH/H₂O (1:1). The solution was stirred at rt for 2 h and then neutralized with 10% HCl. The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, and the organic layer was washed with water and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give 11a (from 10,10'a, b) or 11c (from 10,10'c).

1-((5a*R*,6*R*,9*R*,9a*S*)-3,6-Dihydroxy-9-isopropyl-1-methoxy-6methyl-5a,6,7,8,9,9a-hexahydrodibenzo[*b*,*d*]furan-4-yl)ethanone (11a): 76% from 10,10′a and 86% from 10,10′b, pale yellow solid; mp 155–158 °C; $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$ –84.5 (*c* 0.83, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.18 (s, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.16 (dd, *J* = 5.5 and 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.11 (dd, *J* = 11.1 and 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 1.95–1.60 (m, 3H), 1.55 (br s, 1H), 1.49 (s, 3H), 1.40 (m, 2H), 1.10 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.8 (C), 165.0 (C), 162.0 (C), 161.8 (C), 113.1 (C), 102.9 (C), 92.5 (CH), 92.3 (CH), 69.3 (C), 55.4 (CH₃), 46.5 (CH), 39.6 (CH), 35.2 (CH₂), 31.1 (CH₃), 28.2 (CH₃), 27.1 (CH), 21.7 (CH₃), 17.1 (CH₂), 15.4 (CH₃); IR (KBr) 3442, 2958, 2930, 1619, 1362, 1293, 1208, 1149, 1054 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m*/*z* (rel intensity) 334 (M⁺, 28), 249 (100), 207 (30); HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for $C_{19}H_{26}O_5$ 334.1780, found 334.1779. Anal. Calcd for $C_{19}H_{26}$ - $O_5;$ C, 68.24; H, 7.84. Found: C, 68.46; H, 7.68.

1-((5a*R*,6*R*,9*R*,9a*S*)-6-Hydroxy-9-isopropyl-1,3-dimethoxy-6methyl-5a,6,7,8,9,9a-hexahydrodibenzo[*b*,*d*]furan-4-yl)ethanone (11c): 99%, pale yellow solid; mp 53–55 °C; $[α]^{22}_D -72.5$ (*c* 0.63, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.02 (s, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.12 (dd, *J* = 11.1 and 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H), 1.89 (m, 1H), 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.57 (br s, 1H), 1.46 (s, 3H), 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.11 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.83 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.7 (C), 160.7 (C), 159.8 (C), 158.3 (C), 114.7 (C), 108.8 (C), 91.7 (CH), 88.5 (CH), 69.5 (C), 56.2 (CH₃), 55.3 (CH₃), 46.2 (CH), 39.7 (CH), 35.1 (CH₂), 32.5 (CH₃); E8.1 (CH₃), 27.1 (CH), 21.7 (CH₃), 17.2 (CH₂), 15.4 (CH₃); IR (KBr) 3432, 2958, 2920, 2849, 1605, 1459, 1262, 1102 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 348 (M⁺, 38), 263 (68), 222 (50), 221 (100), 205 (36), 149 (36); HRMS (EI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₂₈O₅ 348.1937, found 348.1937.

2-((1R,6R)-6-Isopropyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-enyl)benzene-1,3,5triol (12). A solution of phloroglucinol dihydrate (250 mg, 1.54 mmol) in CH₃CN/benzene (5 mL/5 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of (-)- α -phellandrene (0.7 mL, 420 mg, 4.34 mmol) and dried TsOH (90 mg, 0.47 mmol) in dry benzene under ice cooling and a N2 atmosphere. The whole was stirred for 2 h. After neutralization with saturated NaHCO3, the mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were washed, dried, and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed (95:5 CH₂Cl₂/ EtOAc) to give 12 (214 mg, 53%): $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} + 35.9$ (c 1.31, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 5.81 (s, 2H), 5.28 (s, 1H), 3.73 (br d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, 2.20–1.94 (m, 2H), 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.32 (m, 1H), 0.82 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 158.4 (C), 157.2 (C), 135.6 (C), 127.9 (CH), 110.3 (2C), 95.9 (2CH), 44.0 (CH), 36.7 (CH), 31.9 (CH₂), 29.2 (CH), 24.0 (CH₂), 23.7 (CH₃), 22.0 (CH₃), 16.8 (CH₃); IR (KBr) 3432, 2949, 2930, 2863, 1619, 1456, 1225, 1137 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 262 (M⁺, 46), 192 (87), 177 (100); HRMS (EI) *m*/*z* calcd for C₁₆H₂₂O₃ 262.1569, found 262.1568.

2-((1R,6R)-6-Isopropyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-enyl)-1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene (13). A suspension of 12 (107 mg, 0.41 mmol), Me₂SO₄ (0.15 mL, 206 mg, 1.63 mmol), and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (198 mg, 1.43 mmol) in Me₂CO (5 mL) was stirred under reflux for 6 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a residue that was purified by silica gel column chromatography (70:30 petroleum ether/CH₂Cl₂) to yield **13** (96 mg, 77%) as a colorless oil: $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +125.9 (c 1.08, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.12 (s, 2H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 3.80 (m, 4H), 3.72 (s, 6H), 2.20-1.89 (m, 3H), 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 1.49-1.23 (m, 2H), 0.80 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.75 (d, J =6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.8 (C), 159.1 (C), 131.4 (C), 126.4 (CH), 114.8 (2C), 91.5 (2CH), 55.9 (2CH₃), 55.1 (CH₃), 42.1 (CH), 35.6 (CH), 31.0 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH), 23.4 (CH₃), 23.1 (CH₂), 21.6 (CH₃), 16.1 (CH₃); IR (NaCl) 2949, 2930, 2830, 1603, 1589, 1463, 1452, 1220, 1201, 1154, 1118 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 304 (M⁺, 24), 234 (100), 203 (57); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C19H28O3 304.2038, found 304.2042.

(1*R*,4*R*,5*S*,6*S*)-4-Isopropyl-1-methyl-5-(2,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl)oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane (14). *m*-CPBA (105 mg, 0.61 mmol) was added to a solution of 13 (140 mg, 0.46 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) at rt under a N₂ atmosphere, and the whole was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was treated with saturated K₂CO₃, extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was washed, dried, and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed (70:30 petroleum ether/EtOAc) to give 14 (113 mg, 77%) as a colorless oil: $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +34.2 (*c* 0.91, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.12 (s, 2H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.44 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.82 (s, 1H), 2.04 (dt, *J* = 13.9 and 3.2 Hz, 1H), 1.73 (m, 1H), 1.51–1.12 (m, 7H), 0.77 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.73 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.5 (C), 159.0 (C), 158.8 (C), 112.9 (C), 91.0 (CH), 90.2 (CH), 66.1 (CH), 58.7 (C), 55.5 (CH₃), 55.3 (CH₃), 55.1 (CH₃), 42.8 (CH), 34.0 (CH), 30.7 (CH₂), 28.0 (CH), 23.1 (CH₃), 21.5 (CH₃), 17.9 (CH₂), 15.9 (CH₃); IR (NaCl) 2944, 2840, 1605, 1586, 1456, 1418, 1220, 1201, 1187, 1149, 1123, 1106, 1038 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 320 (M⁺, 51), 302 (32), 300 (30), 259 (77), 181 (100), 168 (92); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₉H₂₈O₄ 320.1988, found 320.1990. Anal. Calcd for C₁₉H₂₈O₄: C, 71.22; H, 8.81. Found: C, 70.86; H, 8.58.

1-(2,4,6-Trihydroxy-3-((1R,6R)-6-isopropyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-envl)phenvl)ethanone (15). A solution of 2',4',6'-trihydroxyacetophenone monohydrate (500 mg, 2.69 mmol) in toluene/CH₃CN (5 mL/10 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of (-)- α phellandrene (1 mL, 879 mg, 6.45 mmol) and TsOH (110 mg, 0.58 mmol) in dry toluene (23 mL) at rt under a N2 atmosphere. The whole was stirred for 1 h. After neutralization with saturated NaHCO₃, the mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The combined extracts were washed, dried, and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed (96:4 CH₂Cl₂/ EtOAc) to give **15** (583 mg, 71%) as a pale yellow solid: mp 69–71 °C; $[\alpha]^{23}_{D}$ +11.6 (*c* 0.61, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 5.84 (s, 1H), 5.17 (s, 1H), 3.76 (br d, J = 9.1 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.18-1.90 (m, 3H), 1.71 (m, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.50 (m, 1H), 1.30 (m, 1H), 0.82 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) & 204.6 (C), 165.5 (C), 164.8 (C), 162.1 (C), 134.3 (C), 127.4 (CH), 110.3 (C), 105.5 (C), 95.2 (CH), 43.0 (CH), 36.4 (CH), 33.0 (CH₃), 31.9 (CH₂), 29.5 (CH), 24.1 (CH₂), 23.7 (CH₃), 22.0 (CH₃), 16.9 (CH₃); IR (KBr) 3413, 2953, 2925, 2863, 1617, 1440, 1362, 1295, 1269, 1246 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 304 (M⁺, 23), 234 (35), 219 (100), 181 (24), 153 (25); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₁₈H₂₄O₄ 304.1675, found 304.1675. Anal. Calcd for C₁₈H₂₄O₄: C, 71.03; H, 7.95. Found: C, 70.93; H, 7.85.

1-(2-Hydroxy-3-((1R,6R)-6-isopropyl-3-methylcyclohex-2-enyl)-4,6-dimethoxyphenyl)ethanone (16). A suspension of 15 (619 mg, 2.04 mmol), Me₂SO₄ (641 mg, 5.09 mmol), and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (560 mg, 4.06 mmol) in Me₂CO (20 mL) was stirred under reflux for 4 h. The reaction mixture was filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to give a residue that was purified by column chromatography (98:2 petroleum ether/EtOAc) to yield **16** (588 mg, 87%) as a pale yellow solid: mp 76–79 °C; $[\alpha]^{25}$ D +126.1 (*c* 1.06, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.91 (s, 1H), 5.87 (s, 1H), 5.10 (s, 1H), 3.90-3.64 (m, 7H), 2.53 (s, 3H), 2.15-1.80 (m, 3H), 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.59 (s, 3H), 1.29 (m, 2H), 0.75 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.70 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H);¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) & 203.4 (C), 164.7 (C), 164.3 (C), 161.7 (C), 132.0 (C), 125.9 (CH), 112.7 (C), 105.9 (C), 86.0 (CH), 55.4 (CH₃), 55.2 (CH₃), 41.3 (CH), 35.3 (CH), 33.2 (CH₃), 30.7 (CH₂), 28.5 (CH), 23.4 (CH₃), 22.5 (CH₂), 21.6 (CH₃), 16.2 (CH₃); IR (KBr) 3437, 2949, 2920, 2365, 1615, 1418, 1274, 1217, 1118, 1092 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 332 (M⁺, 26), 262 (100), 247 (70); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₀H₂₈O₄ 332.1988, found 332.1992. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₂₈O₄: C, 72.26; H, 8.49. Found: C, 72.35; H, 8.54.

11c. *m*-CPBA (295 mg, 1.72 mmol) was added to a solution of **16** (457 mg, 1.38 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (17 mL) at rt under a N_2 atmosphere, and the whole was stirred for 1 h. NaOH (2% in MeOH–H₂O 1:1, 17 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. The solution was stirred at rt for 30 min and then neutralized with 10% HCl. The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 , and the organic layer was washed with H₂O and dried over MgSO₄. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (6:4 petroleum ether/EtOAc) to give **11c** (420 mg, 87%) as a pale yellow solid.

11a. BBr₃ (1 M in CH₂Cl₂, 1.2 mL, 1.2 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of **11c** (280 mg, 0.8 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) under ice cooling and a N₂ atmosphere. The whole was stirred for 10 min at 0 °C. After the addition of H₂O, the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at rt and then extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined extracts were washed, dried, and evaporated.

The residue was chromatographed (75:25 petroleum ether/ EtOAc) to give **11a** (168 mg, 63%) as a pale yellow solid.

(E)-1-((5aR,6R,9R,9aS)-3,6-Dihydroxy-9-isopropyl-1-methoxy-6-methyl-5a,6,7,8,9,9a-hexahydrodibenzo[b,d]furan-4-yl)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-one ((-)-1). NaOH (56 mg, 1.4 mmol) and benzaldehyde (60 mg, 0.57 mmol) was added to a solution of 11a (95 mg, 0.28 mmol) in MeOH (4 mL) at rt under a N₂ atmosphere. The mixture was stirred for 3 h at 80 °C, neutralized with HCl (1 N), and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined extracts were washed, dried, and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed (98:2 CH₂Cl₂/ EtOAc) to give (-)-1 (76 mg, 64%) as a yellow powder: mp 179–181 °C; $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$ –35.6 (*c* 0.88, CHCl₃); $[\alpha]^{26}_{D}$ –25.9 (*c* 0.68, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.96 (s, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J=15.6 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.39 (m, 3H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 4.24 (dd, J = 5.4 and 0.9 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.13 (dd, J = 11.1 and 5.5 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (m, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.45 (m, 3H), 1.12 (m, 1H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.84 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.0 (C), 166.7 (C), 162.1 (C), 161.5 (C), 143.4 (CH), 135.3 (C), 130.3 (CH), 128.9 (2CH), 128.4 (2CH), 125.8 (CH), 113.3 (C),

103.3 (C), 93.0 (CH), 92.3 (CH), 69.3 (C), 55.4 (CH₃), 46.5 (CH), 39.5 (CH), 35.4 (CH₂), 28.3 (CH), 27.1 (CH₃), 21.7 (CH₃), 17.2 (CH₂), 15.4 (CH₃); IR (KBr) 3449, 2953, 1631, 1586, 1345, 1236, 1206, 1142 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z (rel intensity) 422 (M⁺, 47), 337 (100), 295 (26); HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for C₂₆H₃₀O₅ 422.2093, found 422.2103.

Acknowledgment. We thank Dr. Y. S. Wong and Prof. F. Chuburu for helpful discussions, A. Martinez, C. Petermann, and P. Sigaut for spectroscopic recordings (NMR and MS, respectively), S. Lanthony for microanalysis and HPLC technical assistance, and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) for financial support.

Supporting Information Available: ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds 9a-c, mixtures of 10,10'a-c, 11a-c, 12-16, and (-)-1 and VT ¹H NMR spectra of 10,10'c and 14. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.